

Joseph Dillon - NOAA Federal

From: Joseph Dillon - NOAA Federal
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Fleck, Diane (LA user)
Cc: Beaman, Joe; Yin, Christina
Subject: Re: Request for Technical Assistance: ESA Consultation for EPA Se/CA WQS Rule; Green Sturgeon

Hi Diane - I am well and hope you are too! I'll reach out to our Green Sturgeon Recovery coordinator first and get back to you.

Thanks,
Joe

On Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:51 PM Fleck, Diane (LA user) <Fleck.Diane@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Joe,

Hope you are doing well.

This is a request for technical assistance concerning green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), a federally listed 'threatened' species. As you know, EPA is including green sturgeon in its Biological Evaluation for the ESA consultation on EPA's proposed federal rule for selenium water quality criteria in California; green sturgeon is an important and critical species for this analysis. Specifically, we are seeking assistance with identifying green sturgeon habitat (outside of the San Francisco Bay and Delta) and diet.

The areas covered by our action include enclosed bays and estuaries (estuarine waters) in California, except the San Francisco Bay and Delta, and inland surface waters (freshwaters) in California. Although green sturgeon are mainly found in the San Francisco Bay and Delta in California, it appears from the NMFS final critical habitat designation (74 FR 52300, October 9, 2009) that green sturgeon may be found in other estuaries along the California coast. EPA would like NMFS expertise to identify these estuaries in California. Once waters are identified, we are seeking assistance with identifying the dietary make-up of these sturgeon. In the San Francisco Bay and Delta area, the invasive clam *Potamocorbula amurensis* (Corbula) is an important part of sturgeon diet, and accumulates selenium very efficiently. However, our research indicates that Corbula is not prevalent (or even existent) in other estuaries outside of its native estuarine habitat in China and Russia (see California Department of Fish and Wildlife at: <https://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/calnemo/SpeciesSummary.jsp?TSN=81746>). We are seeking NMFS expertise to correctly identify other prey species (and approximate amounts) for green sturgeon in these other California estuaries.

Please let us know whether you or another expert at NMFS could provide assistance or direction. Thanks

and hope to hear from you soon.

Best,

Diane

Diane E. Fleck, P.E., Esq.

U.S. EPA Region 9 WTR-2-1

Southern California Field Office

600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 940

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: 213 244-1836

--

Joe Dillon

Water Quality Specialist

NMFS West Coast Region - CA Coastal Area Office

777 Sonoma Avenue, Ste 325

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

707-575-6093